AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (Currently amended): A viable knockout non-human mammal, said mammal comprising a disruption in ~~an~~ the endogenous α tocopherol transfer protein gene (Ttpa), or its orthologues, wherein said disruption results in said knockout mammal exhibiting a decreased level of α-tocopherol transfer protein (α-TTP) as compared to a wild-type animal.

Claim 2 (Original): The mammal of claim 1, wherein the mammal is selected from the group consisting of an equine, a bovine, a rodent, a porcine, a lagomorph, a feline, a canine, a murine, a caprine, an ovine, and a non-human primate.

Claim 3 (Original): The mammal of claim 1, wherein the disruption is selected from the group consisting of an insertion, a deletion, a frameshift mutation, a substitution, and a stop codon.

Claim 4 (Original): The mammal of claim 3, wherein the disruption comprises an insertion of an expression cassette into the endogenous Ttpa gene.

Claim 5 (Original): The mammal of claim 4, wherein said expression cassette comprises a selectable marker.

Claim 6 (Original): The mammal of claim 4, wherein the expression cassette comprises a neomycin phosphotransferase gene operably linked to at least one regulatory element.

Claim 7 (Original): The mammal of claim 4, wherein the expression cassette is inserted into exon 1 of the endogenous Ttpa gene.

Claim 8 (Original): The mammal of claim 2, wherein said disruption is in a somatic cell.

Claim 9 (Original): The mammal of claim 2, wherein said disruption is in a germ cell.

Claim 10 (Original): The mammal of claim 2, wherein the mammal is homozygous for the disrupted Ttpa gene.

Claim 11 (Original): The mammal of claim 2, wherein the mammal is heterozygous for the disrupted Ttpa gene.

Claims 12-26 (Canceled).

Claim 27 (Currently amended): A viable knockout rodent comprising a disruption in ~~an~~ the endogenous α tocopherol transfer protein gene (Ttpa), or its orthologues, wherein said disruption results in said knockout rodent exhibiting decreased levels of α-tocopherol transfer protein (α-TTP) as compared to a wild-type animal.

Claim 28 (Original): The rodent of claim 27, wherein the rodent is a mouse.

Claim 29 (Original): The rodent of claim 27, wherein the disruption is selected from the group consisting of an insertion, a deletion, a frameshift mutation, and a stop codon.

Claim 30 (Original): The rodent of claim 27, wherein the disruption comprises an insertion of an expression cassette into the endogenous Ttpa gene.

Claim 31 (Original): The rodent of claim 30, wherein the expression cassette comprises a selectable marker.

Claim 32 (Original): The rodent of claim 30, wherein the expression cassette comprises a neomycin phosphotransferase gene operably linked to at least one regulatory element.

Claim 33 (Original): The rodent of claim 30, wherein the expression cassette is inserted into exon 1 of the endogenous Ttpa gene.

Claim 34 (Original): The rodent of claim 27, wherein said disruption is in a somatic cell.

Claim 35 (Original): The rodent of claim 27, wherein said disruption is in a germ cell.

Claim 36 (Original): The rodent of claim 27, wherein the rodent is homozygous for the disrupted Ttpa gene.

Claim 37 (Original): The rodent of claim 27, wherein the rodent is heterozygous for the disrupted Ttpa gene.

Claims 38-56 (Canceled).